godowns were transferred to the Societies from August 1949.

418. The Grow More Food Section was constituted into a separate Department under a Commissioner for Food Production. Barring compost and seed multiplication schemes, all the other activities were transferred to the new Department. Two thousand six hundred and forty one (2,425) demonstration plots, 121 (131) subvention farms and 297 (505) 'A' Farms were laid. Proposals were made to enlist the services of the natural leaders of the farming community as "Master Farmers" and to utilise their holdings for all demonstrations and propaganda undertaken by the Department. To encourage the natural competition that exists in progressive rural communities for purposes of stepping up food production, prizes and crop competitions were instituted. The Department participated in a number of exhibitions in different parts of the State.

419. Three Colonies in the Visvesvaraya Canal area and one in Marconahalli area were working during the year. Agricultural Colonies.

Department of Food Production.

420. A separate Department of Food Production was started in the State from October 1949. A three-year plan for stepping up food production was drawn up with a view to make the State self-sufficient in the matter of food requirements which was approved by the Central Government.

421. The work of Food Production Branch grew considerably both in administrative and accounts side and with a view to increase the efficiency of the Department, some additional staff was sanctioned in December 1949.

422. The personal deposit account sanctioned for the Central Implement Depot was transferred to this Department on 10th February 1950. The Agricultural Engineering Section was also re-organised in May 1950 to cope with the increased activities in the matter of supply and service of tractors and bulldozers. The sale of agricultural implements, seeds and manures formerly undertaken in the several depots of the Agricultural Department were transferred to the Multi-purpose Co-operative societies in the State the scheme of which was inaugurated in June 1949. These societies are a part and parcel of the

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new rural development schemes and they are getting more and more popular.

423. The section of the Statistician and Agricultural Meteorologist was reorganised with effect from 3rd January 1950 to work satisfactorily the All-India Co-ordinated scheme of crop cutting experiments, to estimate crop production, and assess of the results of Grow More Food measures to find out the Additional Production and link it with procurement and also to place collection, compilation and interpretation of Agricultural Statistics in Mysore on modern scientific basis as suggested by the Technical Committee of the Government of India. Sample surveys were planned on various aspects of Agriculture, such as labour, wages, variation in area under food crops, etc.

424. The societies stocked most of the articles required for their daily needs and the agricultural requirements, particularly seeds, manures and implements form a primary part of their activity. With a view to speeding up the tempo of execution of irrigation and other works under Grow More Food Campaign, the Public Works Department was reorganised and one Assistant Engineer was posted to each taluk. One post of Special Chief Engineer was also created exclusively for the purpose.

425. The Grow More Food Campaign has been in operation since 1942 in the State, and the result achieved has not been up to the anticipated mark. In order to implement the decision of the Government of India to attain self-sufficiency in food before 1951 and stop completely import of food-grains after 1951, a three-year plan for augmenting food production and attaining self-sufficiency in food within the State was drawn up with the approval of the Central Government. The total cost of the three-year scheme of Food Production is estimated to be about Rs. 9,60,95,001. The present gap of scarcity of food-grains in the State is estimated to be 2,41,554 tons.

426. The average area under occupation is 81,72,244 acres of which, 63,79,855 acres are cultivated, the remaining 17,92,389 acres being fallow. An area of 52,20,817 acres is under paddy, ragi and other food-grains. The total cost of the scheme for 1949-50 was estimated at Rs. 3,07,15,035. The Government of India sanctioned a grant of Rs. 42,63,223 in January 1950. Besides, a loan of

Rs. 29,50,000 was also sanctioned during April 1950 to supplement the State resources in order to execute the schemes taken on hand during 1949-50. Fifteen schemes were sanctioned by the Government of India in this connection. The following were the schemes for which the Government of India sanctioned a loan of Rs. 29,50,000 for 1949-50 :—

1. Construction of big tanks,
2. Construction of wells,
3. Fitting up of pumps,
4. Minor irrigation works and,
5. Lift irrigation in river valleys.

427. In addition, the following schemes were approved by the Government of India during the year for execution out of food production bonus earned by the State :—

1. Establishment for distribution of seeds, manure and implements in taluk and circle levels,
2. Prize distribution scheme and
3. Publicity and propaganda schemes.

428. The following schemes were also undertaken by the State Government wholly out of the State finances during the year under Grow More Food Drive.—

1. Supply of electricity to pumping sets.
2. Grant of takavi and land improvement loans for bringing current fallow lands under cultivation.
3. Preparation and distribution of manure mixtures superphosphate and ammonium sulphate through the Multi-purpose Co-operative Society.
4. Maintenance of tractor organisation and service.
5. Supply of agricultural implements, iron and steel for the agriculturists.
6. Distribution of manure, free of cost, for kar ragi cultivation during summer.
7. Starting of co-operative farming societies.
8. Extension of the area under dry cultivation inclusive of date groves and Amrithmahal Kavals.
9. Scheme for increasing the production of subsidiary foods and
10. Miscellaneous schemes tending to increase food production.

429. A total extent of 10,967 acres of new lands was granted for cultivation under the Grow More Food Drive duirng the year and the estimated additional food-grains under this scheme was 1,097 tons.

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430. The State Government undertook the annual tree planting drive during the Birthday festivities as usual. About 15,73,236 trees were planted throughout the State in addition to a good number of trees planted by the ryots themselves.

431. Several measures adopted under the Food Self-sufficiency drive covered a total area of 2,45,305 acres for augmenting production of food-grains. Out of this, an area of 24,563 acres of new lands were brought under cultivation of food-grains. The aggregate additional production of food-grains was estimated at 43,440 tons. The majority of food production schemes sponsored by the Government related primarily to works of permanent nature such as irrigation works.

(iii) Sericulture.

Market Conditions of Silk Industry.

432. Inadequate production of local silk owing to unfavourable seasonal conditions and stoppage of imports brought about an abnormal condition in the market. Prices were very unsteady with wide fluctuations.

433. The price of reeling cocoons per lb. varied from Rs. 1-6-0 in July 1949 to Rs. 3-4-0 in March 1950—price of charka silk likewise rose from Rs. 21 to Rs. 42 per lb. Local filature silk prices varied from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50. Recognising the acute shortage of raw silk and the various hardships caused to silk weaving interests and with a view to affording some relief, Government imported 20,000 lbs. of Italian silk and this was made available at Rs. 45 per lb.

Mulberry Cultivation.

434. The area under mulberry in the State was about 80,000 (78,000) acres. As the result of high prices obtaining during the year, a large number of gardens were planted and many old ones that had been neglected were renovated. More lands were being prepared for mulburry to be planted during the ensuing monsoons due to high prices of cocoons.

435. The total cultivated area of the Government mulberry gardens attached to the Government Farms was 76-6 acres, of which 58-28 acres were under bush mulberry and the rest were planted with trees.

436. Twenty cart-loads of mulberry cuttings and 14,000 mulberry seedlings were supplied free of cost to ryots for planting new gardens. For the first time, 450 grafts (Mysore × Japan) were made available to some sericulturists in Sidlaghatta area. Facilities were provided